

REMARKS

This present amendment is being submitted in order to place this continuation application in better condition for examination or, otherwise, in condition for allowance. In essence, this continuation application, and the amendment therefor, succeeds to the prosecution of the applicant's earlier application Serial No. 10/004,213, filed October 31, 2001. In this respect, the applicant is also responding to that Office Action dated January 28, 2001 in this application.

Claims 10-21 have been cancelled and therefore, it is believed that the cancellation of these claims obviates objection under 35 U.S.C. 112. This cancellation also eliminates any objection under 37 C.F.R. 1.75.

In response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103, the applicant has cancelled a large number of claims in the previous application and has presented Claims 1-8 as well as Claim 9, with the latter in a dependent format. In addition, the applicant has added several new dependent Claims 22 et seq.

With regard to the claims herewith submitted, Claims 1-9 essentially recited that the guidance elements, which defines an end of the line guidance element, and the small discreet path forming elements are all related. In this respect, the path forming elements are defined as extending from regions in proximity to opposite ends of the end of the line element.

The Examiner rejects these claims on the basis of Hensler in view of Chien and Gehweiler et al. The teachings of these references have been previously discussed in detail and, hence, the applicant incorporates by reference those remarks which were presented in the parent application and in the grandparent applications. The Examiner attempts to reject the claims on the basis of references such as Hensler, which disclose a pair of aesthetic strips at the edge of a piece of carpet. Theoretically, these strips, at least in the Examiner's rejection, apparently constitute the equivalent of the path forming elements. If such be the case, there is no end of the line element in Hensler et al. Indeed, the remaining references of record relied upon by the Examiner do not disclose that end of the line element. Certainly, Gehweiler et al. does not disclose a pair of path forming elements extending from ends of the end of the line element. The best that can be said of Chien is that it discloses an exit sign with an arrow. Again, this reference is completely devoid of any teachings identified herein.

The Examiner took the position that it would be obvious to replace the borders with die cut members. Yet, the Examiner discloses not one reference which supports that allegation. This is a rejection conjured up only in the mind of the Examiner. The Examiner further contends that it would have been obvious to modify Hensler by including ground signs of Chien. The applicant does not

specify ground signs of the type taught in Chien, such as exit or the like. Consequently, this rejection overlooks the limitations of the claims.

The additional references cited by the Examiner, such as the
5 Schnee Patent, all are alleged to teach of some of the additional limitations in the dependent claims. However, it is to be noted that all of the references cited by the Examiner miss the basic point of the invention. There is absolutely nothing in the prior art, contrary to the strained allegations of the Examiner, which
10 defines a plurality of elements defining the sides of a path with an end of the line element for guiding a group of individuals to a destination. Try as the Examiner may, references such as Hensler in combination with the other principal references just do not meet this basic concept. The fact remains that the applicant is the
15 first to provide a guidance control system which allows for an orderly and organized movement of a group of individuals to a destination. Not one prior art reference cited by the Examiner meets this basic concept. In order to apply references such as Hensler et al., and the other major references, the Examiner has
20 had to make a quantum leap to suggest that these references teach this basic concept. They do not and the applicant again urges that the claims as submitted, including Claims 1-9, are patentable over the art of record.

The applicant has carefully examined the prior art cited in this application, as well as the numerous other patent applications before this same Examiner. It is interesting to note that not one of these references teaches of the movement of a group of individuals in a guidance path to a destination in advance of that path and with individuals capable of waiting at the end of the line until the destination is available. In substance, the Examiner has overlooked this basic concept and it is believed that this is the concept which is allowable and allowance therefore is respectfully solicited.

The applicant has also added new Claims 22-30. These new claims all call for the fact that each individual in the group awaits his or her turn at the elongate member until they are ready to be received at the destination. Again, this teaching remains completely unanswered by the art of record. The new claims further recite that the pathway has a width sufficient to receive a line of individuals and allow the movement thereof to the destination. Again, these teachings are unanswered by the art of record. Claim 23 calls for the fact that the pathway has a width less than the width of a passenger automobile. As indicated, these limitations clearly are not taught by the art of record. It is therefore believed that new Claims 22-30 are also allowable and allowance therefore is respectfully solicited.

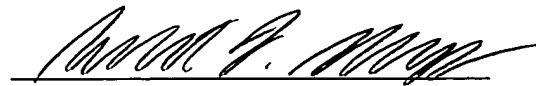
The references which have not been answered in this amendment have been answered in the applicant's arguments in the previous application and those applications parent to the previous application. Therefore, they are not repeated herein.

5 It is also interesting to note that there is absolutely no suggestion that the references relied upon by the Examiner can be combined. Rather, when examining these references, they teach of disparate concepts which do not lend themselves to be combined as such. As a simple example, Hensler teaches of a piece of carpet
10 and Chien teaches of something in the nature of an upstanding element on the floor. However, one does not know how they would combine those teachings to meet the claims of the instant application. The same holds true of Gehweiler et al. and the teachings of Figure 2 thereof. These teachings merely show
15 additional elements on a substrate. They do not define the basic concept of the invention of a pair of guide path forming lines extending from the ends of the end of the line element. Moreover, these references completely miss the basic concept of this invention. It is believed that the invention distinguishes over
20 the prior art of record and allowance therefore is respectfully solicited.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



ROBERT J. SCHAAP
Registration No. 20,577
Attorney for Applicant
(818) 346-6555

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